



JOIN THE CROWD
Check out the hustle of the new semester in a photo spread. Turn this paper on its back or SEE PAGE 8



COMING UP SHORT
The women's basketball fell 81-63 to Fresno State despite a halftime lead.
See SPORTS PAGE 8

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SPARTAN DAILY



52° / 40°

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

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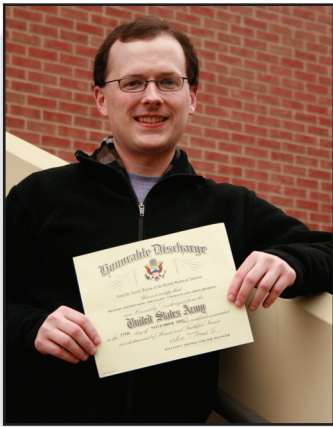
EDITORIAL PERSPECTIVE

Living with honor *One student's struggle for identity*

By **MICHAEL RIZZO**
Project Manager

"Boys have a penis. Girls have a vagina."
When Mr. Kimble, aka Governor Schwarzenegger, got that tip from one of his pupils in "Kindergarten Cop," we all laughed. If only it were that simple.

Meet Amanda Clark, 28. She joined the ranks of San Jose State University on Wednesday, work-



Army. Amanda mused, "I thought I would enjoy it. I thought it would help me. I thought it would be a romantic, glorious episode to try to reclaim my masculinity. But, no. It revolted me."

Amanda had a right-wing conservative worldview when she entered the military. But she quickly found its whole "macho" culture to be a joke.

The Army, she said, turned her into a left-wing radical, and now she's registered Green.

"And they don't understand that gender identity and sexual orientation are very different things."

AMANDA CLARK

On her honorable discharge from the Army Reserve

ing toward a post-baccalaureate degree in accounting. She comes to us after a four-year stint in the Army Reserve, studying Korean at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey.

Oh, and she has a penis.

Amanda identifies as transgender, so she gets lumped in with the queer community. "You can't have the LGB without the T," she told me.

"I just want to live fulltime as a woman," Amanda said. "And be acknowledged as that by society."

In less sympathetic times, "trannies" were thought of as just "gays-to-the-extreme," a fetish gone out of control. And even today, some psychologists would say that Amanda is sick and suffers from a mental disorder.

But the way Cassie Blume of the Billy DeFrank Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in San Jose explained it to me, the transgender identity is misunderstood because society's ingrained notions of male and female are completely abstract.

"We've been trained to divide people this way," Blume said. "But gender is really a continuum."

In other words, if male is red and female is violet then everybody's a different color of the rainbow.

Having a "mental disorder" worked out for Amanda, though. It was her ticket out of the military.

She was discharged honorably on Nov. 27, 2007.

In The Army

"The whole culture of masculinity and tough-guyiness in the

In Nov. 2006, Amanda started seeing a counselor about the feelings she had about her gender. Then in June 2007, she made a major life decision and started hormone therapy. She was beginning the transition toward becoming female.

It had to be kept a secret, though, since Army medical and conduct regulations effectively prohibit military service by transgender people.

Kathi Westcott is the deputy director for law at Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, headquartered in Washington D.C. It's an organization that, among other things, provides legal services to members of the military impacted by the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and other related forms of intolerance.

"The military views gender in a very binary way," she said.

Individuals enter the military as a specific gender, Westcott said, and any attempts to alter that gender are considered a disqualifying act.

In rare cases, transgender individuals can face criminal prosecution or discipline for attempts to transition into a new gender while still serving in the military. And in rarer cases, unjustifiable investigations are launched into transgender soldier's sexual orientation.

"Some military commands equate being transgender to also being homosexual," Westcott said. "And they don't understand that gender identity and sexual orientation are very different things."

Being forced to keep her transi-

See **GENDER**, Page 6



LUKE CUNNINGHAM / SPARTAN DAILY

One pedestrian walks down a barren Second Street in downtown San Jose.

Willing, waiting, ready to serve *Downtown market, eateries left with few customers, low profits*

By **JESSE KIMBREL**
Staff Writer

With the SJSU campus coming out of hibernation this week, a number of local businesses are roaring back to life.

According to some of the downtown eateries, the time from mid-December until late January presents the hardest period to make a profit.

The Pita Pit, located on Second

Street, is hit hard every year by SJSU's winter break. Justin Houde, the operations manager and a student at SJSU, said that from mid-December until last week was the only time during the year The Pita Pit didn't earn a profit.

Houde said that students account for one-third of the business, and two-thirds come from nearby businesses and conventions. Houde also said that during the slow period, the working shifts are cut down to three



PHOTOS BY LUKE CUNNINGHAM / SPARTAN DAILY

Above: Students using the walkway between the Student Union still wonder when the surrounding construction will be finished.

Left: Construction continues to block walkways leading up to Dwight Bental Hall.



LUKE CUNNINGHAM / SPARTAN DAILY

Although school is back in session, Zanotto's Market — in the heart of downtown San Jose — had empty seats around lunch time Jan. 24.

workers from the typical five.

Pita Pit isn't the only downtown business that suffers from the lack of hungry students roaming the streets. Starbucks, on Second Street, makes it clear loiterers aren't welcome, and it misses the thirsty college students during winter break.

Sanovia Jackson, an employee at Starbucks, said that during the break profits were down considerably, as were the hours of the Starbucks employees.

Zanottos, a local grocery store on Second Street, suffered from lost profits from November through January.

"We just do what we can do," said store manager Julie Brand. She said Zanottos isn't that expensive and has a big lunch crowd. "We're not a Whole Foods because we're a lot cheaper," Brand said, who also mentioned her feelings of how dismal the

See **LOCAL**, Page 3

SJSU SPORTS OPINION

Rumors circulate about the departure of head football coach

By **JOSH WEAVER**
Sports Editor



Head football coach Dick Tomey, released a statement Jan. 10 to dispell rumors about leaving SJSU.

As I took my spot on the couch in front of the television — a nightly ritual during extended breaks from school — I opened up a bag of potato chips and tuned in to the local sports report.

Fresh off from a semester of covering the SJSU football team for the Spartan Daily, my mind was blown to hear reports or rumors, or whispers, of head coach Dick Tomey considering a return to the University of Hawaii, where he served as head coach from 1977-86.

My initial thoughts: What? No! This can't be true. How could he do this?

Having had the privilege of sitting in on news conferences throughout the 2007 season and

listening to Tomey comment about how he respected and loved his team, I found this surprising development disappointing. And after the initial shock wore off, I couldn't help but feel betrayed.

To quell the rumors, Tomey released a statement Jan. 10 that was so generic it made Bill Clinton's infamous "I did not have sexual relations with that woman" speech seem believable.

Tomey said he has had no official contact with Hawaii, but went on to explain Hawaii is a special place for him and his wife, adding "I have said all along that Hawaii is the only place we would consider relocating to and at some point in our future we will."

He did mention, however, that his focus is on the 2008 season.

Let's just say I wasn't convinced. There was no sincerity. It was a blatant attempt to downplay the inevitable.

It doesn't help that Hawaii seems to be targeting Tomey for the athletic director position.

The statement also left an uneasy feeling in my stomach, leading me to believe that Tomey won't

See **COACH**, Page 4

INSIDE the DAILY

WE WILL SURVIVE ...

... yet another semester. Students and faculty offer words of wisdom for a successful Spring '08.

See **STUDENT CULTURE**, page 5

BABY STEPS

Diverse presidential candidates show the United States progress, but we're far from perfect.

See **OPINION**, page 7

ADMINISTRATIVE MANUEVER

Spartan Daily managing editor Lindsay Bryant questions the White House in its response to the death of actor Heath Ledger.

See **OPINION**, page 7

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the DAILY from the wire

Briefs from the Associated Press

Apple Inc. CEO collects annual \$1 paycheck, stock options

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Inc. Chief Executive Steve Jobs continued his tradition of taking home only \$1 in salary in 2007, when he also gained \$14.6 million on paper by exercising stock options that were about to expire, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Jobs has taken a \$1 annual salary since returning to the Cupertino-based company in 1997 and has hoarded his shares of Apple stock since then, accumulating about 5.5 million, according to Apple's proxy report filed Wednesday with the SEC.

The value of Jobs' stock has taken a beating over the past month, however, as investors have retreated from Apple shares amid fears of slowing consumer spending and a recession in the United States.

Since Apple released a disappointing second-quarter forecast after the close of trading Tuesday, Apple shares have plunged almost 11 percent.

Fresno State gets \$4.5 million grant for biomedical research

FRESNO — Federal health authorities are awarding Fresno State a five-year, \$4.5 million grant to create a biomedical research center.

The center will focus on health disparities in the community, and will sponsor investigations including a study of pesticides' effects on breast cells of Hispanic farm workers and the relationship between asthma, air pollution and viral infections.

California State University, Fresno plans to use part of the money to buy sophisticated laboratory equipment.

Fresno State was one of 19 universities nationwide, and two in California, that won grants from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Palestinians flood into Egypt through breached Gaza wall

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Tens of thousands of Palestinians poured from the Gaza Strip into Egypt Wednesday after masked gunmen with explosives destroyed most of the seven-mile wall dividing the border town of Rafah.

The Gazans crossed on foot, in cars or riding donkey carts to buy supplies made scarce by an Israeli blockade of their impoverished territory.

Police from the militant group Hamas, which controls Gaza, directed the traffic. Egyptian border guards took no action.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Arye Mekel said Israel has no forces on the Gaza-Egypt border and, "therefore it is the responsibility of Egypt to ensure that the border operates properly, according to the signed agreements."

"We expect the Egyptians to solve the problem," Mekel said.

"Obviously we are worried about the situation. It could potentially allow anybody to enter."

Israeli defense officials said they were concerned Hamas could use the opening of the border to bring weapons and ammunition into Gaza.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because the defense ministry had issued no official statement.

Gunmen kill 8 Iraqi soldiers in drive-by at army checkpoint

BAGHDAD — Gunmen opened fire on an Iraqi army checkpoint in central Baghdad Wednesday, killing eight soldiers and wounding two, police said.

The drive-by shooting occurred about 11 a.m. in the Bab al-Mudham district, a commercial area on the eastern side of the Tigris River in central Baghdad.

Two other soldiers were wounded, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

The attack in the heart of Baghdad provided a deadly example of the stark challenges facing the Iraqi forces as they work to take over their own security so U.S.-led troops can eventually go home.

It was the latest in a series of bombings, shootings and mortar attacks as militants seek to undermine recent security gains.

Iraqi politicians and the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki have been criticized for failing to take advantage of recent security gains to make progress on key U.S.-backed reforms believed necessary to stem support for the Sunni-led insurgency.

Most Asian markets rebound from recent plunge, US interest rate cut

TOKYO — Most Asian markets rebounded Wednesday, reversing their recent gut-wrenching plunge as investors welcomed a hefty, surprise interest rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve to shore up the sagging American economy.

European markets slipped in early trading.

Analysts said the market turmoil

SPARTA GUIDE

EVENT CALENDAR

Today

What: School of Art & Design Gallery Shows
Where: Art Building and Industrial Studies Building
When: Jan. 23 to Feb. 1
Contact: 924-4327, tbelcher@sjsuvm.sjsu.edu

January 22

What: Quiz Bowl Team Meeting
Where: History Department, Dudley Moorhead Hall, room 134
When: Jan. 22, 5 p.m.
Contact: Keith Callenberb, kcallenb@email.sjsu.edu

January 28

What: Free Group Fitness Classes
Where: Event Center Sport Club
When: Jan. 28 to Feb. 1
Contact: A.S. Campus Recreation, 924-6218, ascr@as.sjsu.edu

February 5

What: Photography Reception
Where: Art Building
When: Feb. 5, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Contact: Wendy Crockett, innie726@aol.com

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. **Submit entries** online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

would linger for some time because the Fed's emergency action was seen by some as a sign American authorities view the U.S. credit crunch as a very serious problem.

"The Fed's action provided a very positive surprise," said Tsuyoshi Segawa, strategist at Shinko Securities Co. in Tokyo.

"But people are also starting to think that things may be so bad they needed to act."

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index surged 10.7 percent — its biggest gain 10 years — to 24,090.17, regaining much of the 13.7 percent it had shed over the previous two days.

House leaders to meet about economic stimulus bill

WASHINGTON — Top House leaders will continue talks with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson on a plan to try to jolt the economy out of its slump.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, are taking the

lead in Capitol Hill negotiations.

The centerpiece of the measure expected to be a tax rebate similar to the \$300-\$600 checks sent out in the summer of 2001.

A host of senior lawmakers in both parties met on Tuesday with President Bush, who has proposed a stimulus plan worth about \$150 billion.

He again expressed optimism that his administration can reach quick agreement with Congress.

"I believe we can find common ground to get something done that's big enough," Bush said in the Cabinet Room.

"Effective enough so that an economy that is inherently strong gets a boost — to make sure that this uncertainty doesn't translate into more economic woes for our workers and small business people," Bush said.

Pelosi, Boehner and Paulson scheduled a breakfast meeting Wednesday at the Capitol to try to make more concrete progress than has been made thus far.

In the only major development Tuesday, Senate leaders Harry Reid,

D-Nev., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., agreed to stand back and let the House take the lead in the talks with the administration.

Study: Bush, other officials issued hundreds of false statements before Iraq invasion

WASHINGTON — A study by two nonprofit journalism organizations found that President Bush and top administration officials issued hundreds of false statements about the national security threat from Iraq in the two years following the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The study concluded that the statements "were part of an orchestrated campaign that effectively galvanized public opinion and, in the process, led the nation to war under decidedly false pretenses."

The study was posted Tuesday on the Web site of the Center for Public Integrity, which worked with the Fund for Independence in Journalism.

Conversation with author

Ishmael Beah

a long way gone

Memoirs of a Boy Soldier



When: 7:30pm, Wed., February 6, 2008

Where: Barrett Ballroom

Tickets: \$10 SJSU Faculty, Staff and Students*
\$30 General Admission

*Free for students assigned to attend as part of class.

Tickets available at the Event Center Box Office or by phone at 408.924.6333.

Ishmael Beah will discuss his upbringing as a child soldier in African Sierra Leone in a conversation with journalist Angie Coiro. Book signing to follow.

www.alongwaygone.com

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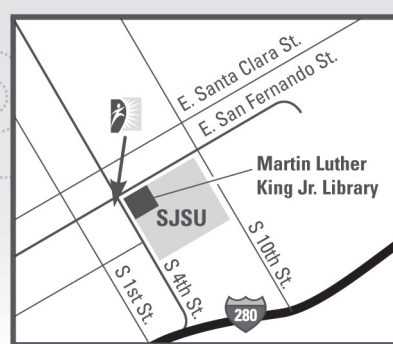
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“It doesn’t really affect me, but I’m sure it affects a lot of students who would rather just walk straight through. Most of my classes are on the other side of campus so I won’t have to deal with it but I would say that it is a nuisance.”

JOHN VOSS
psychology, junior

“It depends what the construction’s for I guess. If it’s good for the school, then I don’t have a problem with it.”

JUSTIN YUN
psychology, senior

“I think sometimes it’s annoying to have to go around, especially because most of the campus is blocked. And sometimes it’s so blocked off that you have to, like, cut around and can’t even take your normal route so sometimes I’m late to class.”

LINDSEY PERRELLI
hospitality and recreation, junior

- Compiled by Mandie Mohsenzadegan



PHOTOS BY LUKE CUNNINGHAM / SPARTAN DAILY

Above:
Amelia Bechtel and Joeline Boulware, both seniors majoring in public relations, are forced to walk across the muddy lawn while construction gates block the entire walkway near Morris Daily Auditorium.

Left:
Construction gates continue to block off walkways in front of Morris Daily Auditorium.



LOCAL | Market plans to give discounts soon

Continued from Page 1

economy is right now. Last year Zanottos raised the minimum purchase for the student discount to \$25, Brand said. Zanottos stopped the 10 percent student discount before SJSU’s winter break started. “Sometime in the spring the 10 percent discount will come back,” Brand said. She said the store loses a lot of business during the break because fewer students are around. Not all the businesses close to campus suffer from the loss of students

lurking around during winter break. At Johnny Rockets, across from the Fairmont Hotel on First Street, a shift supervisor who declined to state her name said that business is great during the winter. She said that while Christmas in the Park is going on, it’s the restaurant’s busiest time of the year. The shift supervisor said that students usually come in either alone or with a friend and just order fries and a shake. She said that Christmas in the Park brings hungry families who order whole meals and bring in a much larger profit.

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THE LONDON

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Saturday, Jan 26

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COSTUME ROCKS

IN STORES NOW

SJSU women’s basketball team squanders 10-point halftime lead

*SPARTAN DAILY
STAFF REPORT*

Playing all 40 minutes, guard Natalie White shot 5-10 from 3-point range and scored 21 points, but it wasn’t enough as the SJSU women’s basketball team fell to Fresno State University 81–63 Tuesday night in Fresno.

The loss sent the Spartans to 1-16 on the season and 0–4 in the Western Athletic Conference.

Fresno State used two big second-half runs of 20–6 and 19–5 to spoil a Spartan 10-point halftime lead and seal the victory.

SJSU junior guard Myosha Barnes contributed 11 points on 4–7 shooting, and forward Brittany Powell added 10 points along with 5 rebounds, to share the team lead.

Fresno State’s Tierre Wilson led all scorers with 22 points and was accompanied by three other Bulldogs who scored in double figures.

The Spartans will look to put an end to their 10-game losing streak as



SJSU forward Brittany Powell (right) fights Fresno State’s Marnique Arnold for a rebound.

they return to action today at 7 p.m. against WAC opponent the University of Idaho at the Event Center.

Women’s Basketball

Statistical leaders through 17 games

Record 1–16

Points:
Natalie White, 16.1 ppg

Rebounds:
Natalie White, 6.1 rpg

Assists:
Brittany Imaku, 4.4 apg

Steals:
Brittany Imaku, 35

3-pointers made:
Natalie White, 34

Games on tap

Today 7 p.m.
SJSU vs.
University of Idaho

Sat., Jan. 26
7 p.m.
SJSU vs.
Fresno State University

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COACH|Future unclear

Continued from Page 1

be walking the sidelines of Spartan Stadium after next year, abandoning the final two years remaining on his contract.

Admittedly, I was not the biggest Spartan football supporter when I began taking classes at SJSU, not attending a game until two years into my stay on campus. Even worse, I contributed to numerous jokes at the expense of the football team — something I regret.

But when Tomey arrived on campus in 2005, the attitude of the team changed and so, too, did my opinion of the once forgettable Spartan football program.

Tomey has brought a no-nonsense demeanor with him and a philosophy that redefined the word “team.”

The turnaround was painfully slow as the team went 3–8 in 2005.

But out of nowhere, the 2006 squad shocked the university, the San Jose community and all of college football, posting a 9–4 record, including a New Mexico Bowl victory.

Tomey and his coaching staff have improved recruiting and have also attracted high-profile transfers, such as defensive end Jeff Schweiger from the University of Southern California, cornerback Coye Francies from Oregon State University and quarterback Kyle Reed from the UC Berkeley.

Attendance has increased, and the team has garnered more national media coverage.

Tomey leaving would be disas-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WAC

Head coach Dick Tomey has led the Spartans to a 17-19 record in his three seasons, including a victory in the 2006 New Mexico Bowl.

trous for the program.

It isn’t like the improved Spartan football team is all Tomey’s doing. But he is a great coach who cares about his players and wants to see them succeed.

Finding a replacement would be difficult. And SJSU would need to find a high-profile replacement, making the task even more daunting. SJSU can’t afford to hire a coach with little or no experience. What the Spartans need is a coach with a reputation, one who is known throughout college football and one who can attract attention.

I know the 2007 season just finished and there are nine months before the next season gets under way, but let’s hope this early off-season distraction doesn’t affect recruiting, training camp and the regular season.

The expectation for a winning season is commonplace now and no longer an unrealistic possibility based upon hope. But if Tomey departs, we can only hope our kids live to see another bowl appearance by the Spartans.

Well, that may be exaggerated, but you get the point.

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Speak up: What are you looking forward to this semester?



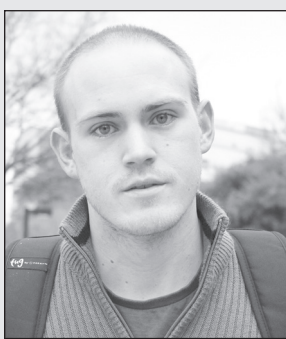
"Raise my GPA. Moved down from S.F. State to study more and not go out all the time."

Josh Medrano
*sophomore
cell and molecular biology*



"Hopefully to meet some good professors, gain some insight and meet new folks."

Brian Pham
*junior
business*



"I just transferred here, so I want to be successful."

Nick Sterling
*junior
corporate finance*



"Graduating."

Alisha Hicks
*senior
social science*

COMPILED BY TARA DUFFY / PHOTOS BY CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ

BACK TO THE HUSTLE 'N BUSTLE

Sound advice from students and faculty to get the most out of your spring semester

By SARAH KYO
Student Culture Editor

As another semester begins at SJSU, students and staff members offer ways students can get off to a good start.

Among the students who are new to this university is Liz Mendoza, a senior nursing student. Mendoza said she arrived in the 10th Street garage on the first day of school at 7 a.m. — two hours before the start of her first class.

"When I went to orientation, I heard parking is really a problem here," Mendoza said.

Mendoza transferred from Cal State Sacramento this semester for SJSU's nursing program. She said so far, she has a positive impression of people at SJSU.

"I think the people are pretty friendly," Mendoza said. "They actually showed me around."

Counseling Services offers about 30 workshops for students, said Deanna Peck, coordinator for educational programs.

The first workshop, Success@SJSU, will take place Monday at 3 p.m. in the Administration building, Room 269. According to a brochure, students can learn 10 ways to get what they want and need during their time at SJSU. Peck said a faculty member and a staff member from Counseling Services will speak at the workshop.

Peck said Counseling Services also offers different support groups, as well as workshops about different topics that affect students, such as insomnia and dating.

Alice Ting, director of the Learning Assistance Resource Center, said the Center provides tutoring services, workshops and other services to SJSU students for free.

Ting said the tutors are SJSU

upper division and graduate students who are available for drop-in services and by appointment.

"LARC is the learning center on campus who helps students achieve academic success," Ting said.

Both Peck and Ting said students should be aware of the resources available on campus.

Steven Bui, a senior health science major, said he only had a 1:30 p.m. class on Wednesday. However, he came to school in the morning to talk to his advisers.

Bui said it is important for students to get involved with school activities.

"Join a club because you don't know anybody," Bui said. "It might help you meet new people."

Tu-Anh Dang, a senior psychology major, said students should get to know their professors and build a relationship with them.

"It will be easier for them to help you succeed in the class," Dang said.

Peck agreed, saying that faculty members can be students' top advocates.

Mendoza said although she is still adjusting to the new learning environment, the nursing faculty members have been "really nice."

Ting also recommended students to look at their schedule and assess whether or not it is a reasonable workload for them.

"Make a weekly schedule for all of your activities, and make sure you include enough study time," Ting said.

She said for each hour of class, students should set aside two to four hours for studying.

Ting suggested that students prepare for their classes and seek out help from tutors as soon as possible.

"Don't wait until (you're) in trouble," Ting said. "Get a head start in classes."



CARLOS A. MORENO / SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Students search for their textbooks during the first day of the semester.

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Department of Sociology

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Soci 1, Introduction to Sociology GE: D1

This course introduces students to the systematic study of human social patterns and processes. It provides broad exposure to the major concepts, issues, techniques of research, and substantive findings of the discipline. Topics include "growing up," sexuality, sports, race, family, violence, poverty, politics, religion, and drugs, among other things.

Soci 57, Community Involvement and Personal Growth GE: E

Explores human development in community context, emphasizing civic responsibility. Students learn about the influence of community engagement on individuals' physiological, psychological, social, and cultural well-being. Students get involved in a multicultural community organization.

Soci 116, Global Society GE: D3

This course examines interconnectedness among countries, development, and global social issues in areas such as economics, politics, and culture. It also evaluates the impact of change on various world communities and explores the responses of specific groups to emerging problems and opportunities.

Soci 15, Statistical Applications in the Social Sciences GE: B4

This course is an introduction to statistical applications that are necessary to analyze numerical data. Emphasis is on (not that you should know what all of these are yet) hypothesis testing, probability, statistical inference, variation, measures of association, correlation, linear regression, and analysis of variance.

Soci 80, Social Problems GE: D3

Provides a sociological analysis of selected contemporary social problems such as housing and homelessness, the economy, employment, environmental issues, consumer habits, marriage and divorce, single parenting, crime, politics, influences of media, drug use and abuse, racism, sexism, wealth, hunger, poverty, and militarism.

Soci 162, Race and Ethnic Relations SJSU Studies: S

Students analyze race and ethnic groups in American society in terms of contacts and conflicts, prejudice and discrimination, dominant and subordinate group status, and socially structured racial and ethnic inequality. Groups' different perspectives are explored. Students also compare race and ethnic relations in the global context.

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the scientific study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists seek out and document the patterns or regularities in human social behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and the ways people interact within these contexts. The topics that sociologists study range from human sexuality to family violence, race, gender, inequality, and sports. Sociology provides many ways of viewing the world around us, generating new ideas and critiquing the old. Few fields have as broad a scope for research, theory, and work in applied settings, offering skills that can be applied to virtually any aspect of social life. Increasingly, sociological skills are being valued by employers as our economy turns global and human resources grow in value to organizations. Currently, sociology is especially respected in fields where social policies are created such as in non-profit organizations and state and federal agencies.

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Soci 161 City Life
Soci 166 Medical Sociology

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Soci 151 Violence in the Family
Soci 152 Youth Offender
Soci 153 Criminology
Soci 154 Nonconforming Behavior
Soci 155 Victimology
Soci 156 Gangs and Mobs
Soci 158 Prison Community
Soci 159 Violence and War

Social Justice

Soci 160 Immigration & Identity
Soci 163 Social Change
Soci 164 Social Action
Soci 165 Poverty, Wealth, Privilege

Human Relations and Growth

Soci 170 Modern Family
Soci 171 Person & Society
Soci 172 Alternative Lifestyles
Soci 173 Socialization
Soci 174 Sex & Love
Soci 175 Masculinity & Femininity
Soci 176 Small Group Processes
Soci 178 Sociology of Childhood

The soci 1 prerequisite is waived for the above elective courses. Soci 178 can be found online through "Search for Classes" but not "Browse Catalog."

For more information:
www.sjsu.edu/depts/sociology

or call Dr. Yoko Baba at 408-924-5334 or Dr. James Lee at 408-924-5866

Comments from our readers

Column stating that Ron Paul is out of contention starts online chatter

The comments below are in reference to Kevin Rand's column, "Wake me up when the real race starts," from Jan. 23.

No Ron Paul? I'm sorry, did he not just place second in Nevada? Did he not just beat Giuliani in four of the first five states? Did he not defeat Thompson in three of the first five states? Does Ron Paul not have the most money on hand of any Republican (minus Romney, whose numerous trips to the ATM probably outnumber his total number of votes)?

In case you're not paying attention, which obviously you are not if you had to look up "primary" and "caucus," Ron Paul is about take a significant number if not the majority of delegates from Louisiana. He is also polling at 8 percent in California.

-Michael Cathcart

I understand how you are easily influenced by polling numbers and other media-released statistics, but I am very disappointed that one who carries the name Rand doesn't do more research for yourself. The large grassroots support Dr. Paul has garnered has funded a campaign that can go to all fifty states, unlike the campaigns of Huckabee, Giuliani and Thompson, who have had to ask their staffers to take paycuts.

-Victor

I would absolutely not count out Ron Paul. He is the only hope for saving America.

The economy is going to collapse along with the dollar if something is not done soon. Dr. Paul is the only candidate in any party that acknowledges this is even a problem.

Those of you that need further evidence of this, look at the price of oil in dollars since 2000. Then look at the price of oil in gold. Oil is up approximately 300 percent in dollars and actually down a few percentage points in gold.

Now does anyone want to say Ron is a kook for wanting to return to gold?

This election is the most important in the last 50 years at least. It is about a major choice, and not the one that democrats and republicans usually offer. That is a false choice between personal freedom and economic freedom. Democrats typically want to control our money and how we make it and how we are taxed on it. Republicans want to control our personal lives, who we have sex with and what we do with our own bodies. Ron Paul wants to control neither.

-David Goree

One can see what American presidential politics has become, even American politics as a whole: You're allowed to vote for the candidates chosen by big business, those who will implement policies favorable to them, whether it's in the public interest or not. Is it any wonder that many Americans are now choosing to vote for "none of the above?"

But if they really wanted to change things, they always could. If they're not happy with the candidates who are chosen for them, they could always choose their own and vote for them, and "throw the (present) rascals out," as they used to say.

People don't do so because they've just sunk down into lethargy. It's too much work, too much trouble, too much expense and too big a fight against big business, big media and big polls that predict such independent candidates "don't have a chance."

-Ted Rudow III

Far from perfect, but closer



By JOHN ELLIS
Staff Writer

Thirty years ago, a non-white or non-male presidential candidate was a grand fantasy of minorities and women. Fifteen years ago, those who tried were not taken seriously enough to even make it on the ballot. Today, we finally have a diverse group of leaders vying for the highest office in the country.

How did we get here? With a lot of pain, protest, sweat and the unwavering voice of oppressed Americans all across the country.

The nationwide discussion that rocked social centers and college campuses during the women's and civil rights movements cried out for the respect and equality of all people.

The backs of the marginalized carried an inhumane amount of burden and disrespect based on centuries of racial and prejudicial beliefs. But the weight lugged around in those days is now starting to pay off, and the future has never looked brighter for those who deserve it the most.

So what about this presidential go-around is truly historic? The fact that the candidates represent a diverse social

spectrum, including a woman, an African-American, a Latin American and a Mormon all running for president is definitely a first.

Although Bill Richardson, the Latin-American governor of New Mexico, recently dropped out of the race, all of the presidential hopefuls have a respectable following that wants them elected to the most influential political office in the world.

The upcoming primaries, caucuses and the national election make me proud to be a U.S. citizen, something I haven't said out loud since the CW television network (formerly UPN) started playing back-to-back episodes of "The Simpsons" every night of the week.

*How did we get here?
With a lot of pain, protest,
sweat and the unwavering
voice of oppressed Americans
all across the country.*

But the rise of the American intellect doesn't come without its naysayers. We still live in a country where a schoolyard fight can be prosecuted as attempted murder depending on the color of your skin. We embrace sexual equality in a nation that is filled with domestic violence and brutality against women. We criminalize people who try to escape poverty in Latin

America while offering them jobs and a better life. And many people — and I am absolutely guilt-free of this one — judge others solely on their religious beliefs and ostracize those who believe differently.

My point is that as a nation and as humans, we are far from perfect. But those of us who are trying to make a better world for everyone, regardless of the differences among us, understand the significant role of good leaders and the importance of never letting a hateful ideology become a social absolute.

We need compassionate leadership. We need people who are truly capable of forgiving at the highest level, understanding in the face of the unfamiliar, and painfully honest.

I'm not saying we have to vote for a minority or woman candidate to continue down this road of respect and understanding, although I do have one in mind for myself. I just wanted to show that the political landscape of today has a lot to do with the struggles of the past.

And if we are truly going to call ourselves the freest, fairest and most righteous nation in the world, then we need to elect leaders who embody those ideas and not just compare ourselves to other countries that seem decades behind us.

Because even in the most undeveloped regions of the world, there are some societies that make us look like a medieval empire from the Dark Ages.

Oversensitive in the White House Actor Heath Ledger's death delays anti-drug campaign



LINDSAY BRYANT

Column What You Want

Poor Heath Ledger. Remember him? The strong jaw line ... the blond locks ... the "Brokeback"?

A bottle of pills in his right hand and the world at his fingertips, so to speak, I thought Ledger was going places.

Now he is gone and being called the James Dean of our generation. "Live fast and die young." What words to live by. It would make a great tattoo.

Ledger's death doesn't really mean much to me. I heard about it, gasped, said "Aw, that's too bad," and went on with my life.

For our president, however, Ledger meant a lot more.

The space above is where your mental image may go.

For the leader of the free world, or for whoever made the decision, Ledger's possibly drug-induced death caused enough pause in Washington D.C. to postpone a long-time planned anti-drug campaign.

Bush's Press Secretary, Dana Perino,

said, "We did not want to link it to that story in any way."

And for what? People make mistakes. They kill themselves with drugs for reasons others may never understand. Sometimes they leave behind children. It's always tragic and never an upbeat addition to dinner conversation.

But, it happens. For the president, Ledger's death spoke to him.

"Wait until it blows over. It's too soon," someone in the White House may have said.

I think the "sensitivity" surrounding the decision to hold the campaign's launch so soon after the Hollywood starlet's death is ingenuous.

A famous movie star died from the exact thing the government trying to campaign against ... and no one has the foresight to capitalize on the publicity?

Insensitivity has no place in this issue. In the United States, 4.5 million teens were abusing prescription medications to get high. The annual study by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America reported that almost one in five teenagers were either trying or abusing prescription drugs, and one in 10 had abused cough medicine in 2006.

The availability of prescription and over-the-counter "substances," like cough syrup drive, teens to use and abuse. The lack of education about the health risks of prescription meds, coupled with the glamour surrounding Hollywood addicts, doesn't exactly help the anti-drug mes-

sage.

The government is mum about battling the drug war in America for now in order to not offend or "look opportunistic in highlighting the issue," as the president's press secretary put it.

But maybe the decision *is* founded in some sort of reliable, ad hoc twisting of "not wanting publicity" to gain more publicity.

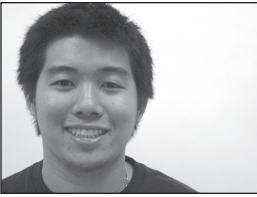
*People make mistakes. They
kill themselves with drugs
for reasons others may never
understand. ... It's always tragic
and never an upbeat addition
to dinner conversation.*

The more the administration's sound bite is played and rewritten into another news article, the more it lets air out from the tires underneath the Ledger ride — but not enough for it to run flat.

And not enough for the White House to use a young movie star, "a beloved one" as the press secretary said, to use as an example for teens in America.

"Column What You Want" appears the first and third Thursday of every month. Lindsay Bryant is the Spartan Daily managing editor.

You shouldn't vote if you're not informed



By SAMUEL LAM
Senior Staff Writer

I am 21 years old and I am a registered voter. As an American citizen, I have this awesome privilege to vote in the upcoming California Presidential Primary Election on Feb. 5th. Everything is set in place for me to vote.

But I don't think I should.

I belong in the category of young adults who are never updated with politics. I rarely ever open up the newspaper and look into current domestic and foreign affairs. It's always the sports and entertainment pages.

I don't know about any issues the candidates are supporting. I can't even name six of the people running. I know there is Clinton, Obama, Paul ... Is Bill Richardson still running?

Everywhere I go, I hear talks about the lack of young voters. People like us, the college students, are encouraged to become voters and participate in politics.

I actually think that is great. The youth should take a stand and get involved in politics. The older generation should not be the deciding factor in the changes for this country.

But should every registered young adult be able to vote?

When a person becomes an adult at the age of 18, there are a lot of expectations that arise. As adults, there is a certain maturity level. As adults, there are more responsibilities. But as young adults, are we intelligent enough?

*The older generation
should not be the deciding
factor in the changes for
this country.*

When I first registered to vote a few years ago, I had just turned 18 years old. There was a table set right outside the Student Union and I registered right there, thinking that was the coolest thing I could do as an adult.

I knew I could make a change in this country. I felt important. Even P. Diddy told us to "Vote or Die." I felt that I had just joined this exclusive club.

I voted that November without even knowing who all the presidential candidates were and what their policies were.

George W. Bush ended up winning the election, giving him another four years in office. I didn't care at the time. I was just happy to be part of something.

But now, I don't have that same joy in voting. As much as I still love to make some kind of change to this country, I can't.

I only know a handful of friends who are politically minded. They are either active in local politics or are headstrong liberals. They are the ones that should be voting (and I know they are). But for me, and the many others out there who aren't informed, we shouldn't.

Since some of us don't know enough about the election, it would do America a great injustice if we voted. It's basically like throwing away votes.

Some people will end up voting for Barack Obama just because he's not white. Some people will vote for Hillary Clinton because she's not a man. Some people won't vote for either just because they aren't white men. Voters will vote not knowing anything about politics. But they're going to vote anyway.

I would just hope that when we go out to vote, we actually know why we're voting. It's not because it's the cool thing to do, like I thought back when I just turned 18. I'm voting because I know what I want for this country.

As much as there is encouragement to have huge voter turnouts, I rather would have the informed people vote.

So I hope that when you vote, that you aren't just throwing away your vote. To fix up P. Diddy's slogan: "Be Informed ... Then Vote or Die."

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the DAILY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"It was a strategic mistake
to skip all those states. If
people think you're not
in the game, people get
insulted by that. Folks in
Florida say, 'Maybe this
guy is not a national
candidate.'"*

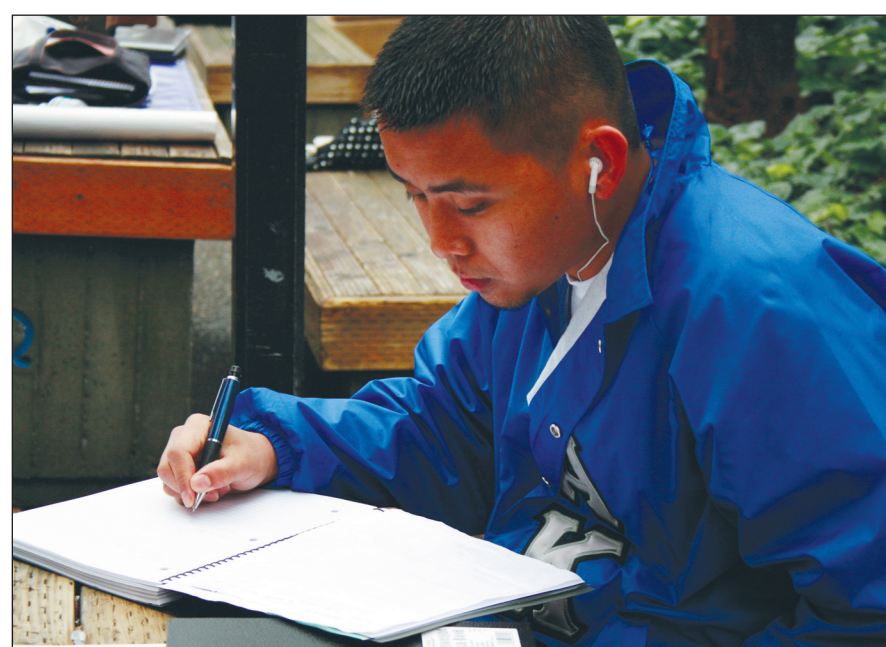
BRIAN BALLARD

A republican strategist who is campaigning for John McCain, referring to Rudy Giuliani's downplaying the importance of New Hampshire and South Carolina.



ANNE RIGOR / SPARTAN DAILY

Students eagerly waited in line in front of a packed A.S. Print Shop during the first morning of Spring '08 instruction.



ANNE RIGOR / SPARTAN DAILY



CARLOS A. MORENO / SPARTAN DAILY

Above: Students pay for their textbooks at the Spartan Bookstore on the first day of instruction. Left: Mark Cortez studies by the Student Union. Right: A student searches for a used textbook.

Back in the saddle again

Long lines, crowded sidewalks, studying ... already?



CARLOS A. MORENO / SPARTAN DAILY

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